

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for producing ~~frequency-converted~~ laser radiation of ~~enhanced power stability and minimum degradation~~ comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a preferred beam path direction of a frequency conversion crystal by arranging the crystal in two possible directions for frequency conversion, the two possible directions being related by 180degrees;

~~(a) selecting a preferred beam path direction of a frequency conversion crystal by arranging a crystal in one of two directions for frequency conversion, the directions being related by 180°, and the beam path direction being selected according to lower degradation compared to the other beam path direction;~~

(b) amplifying radiation of an optical pumping source by using an optical cavity having at least one frequency conversion crystal disposed such that the crystal is passed by the radiation only in the selected predetermined beam path direction.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A frequency-converted laser apparatus comprising
an optical pumping source for producing optical pumping radiation;
a unidirectional ring cavity comprising a frequency conversion crystal, a prism and mirror arrangement, wherein the frequency conversion crystal is positioned in a predetermined direction such that the radiation produced by the optical pumping source enters in a direction such that the crystal is passed by radiation only in one selected beam path direction.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously amended): The frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising coupling optics disposed between the optical pumping source and the ring cavity.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the unidirectional ring cavity is an external resonant unidirectional cavity.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously amended): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the symmetrical Brewster-angled crystal is a Beta-Borium Borate (β -BaB₂O₄ or BBO) crystal or a Lithium Triborate (LiB₃O₅ or LBO) crystal.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a stage amplifier.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the prism is connected to a piezoelectric element.

Claim 12 and 13 (canceled).